IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

JO ANN HOWARD AND ASSOCIATES, P.C.,)
SPECIAL DEPUTY RECEIVER OF LINCOLN)
MEMORIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,)
MEMORIAL SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE)
COMPANY, AND NATIONAL)
PREARRANGED SERVICES, INC., ET AL.,)
)
Plaintiffs,) Case No. 4:09CV01252 ERW
v.)
)
J. DOUGLAS CASSITY; RANDALL K.)
SUTTON; BRENT D. CASSITY; J. TYLER)
CASSITY; RHONDA L. CASSITY; ET AL.,)
)
Defendants.)

PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO COMPEL THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND ELECTRONICALLY STORED INFORMATION BY DEFENDANTS HOWARD A. WITTNER AND WITTNER, SPEWAK & MAYLACK, P.C.

Plaintiffs respectfully move this Court to compel the production of all documents and electronically stored information by Defendants Howard A. Wittner and Wittner, Spewak & Maylack, P.C. ("Defendants") identified in their joint initial disclosure statement, as required by both Local Rule 26-3.01(A) and this Court's Interim Case Management Order.

1. Under Local Rule 26, "[d]isclosure of documents and electronically stored information pursuant to Rule 26(a)(1)(A)(ii) shall be made by providing a copy to all other parties, except as otherwise ordered by the Court." E.D. Mo. Local Rule 26-3.01(A).

- 2. The Court's Interim Case Management Order, issued June 27, 2011, required all parties to "serve initial disclosures and produce all documents as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) and E.D. Mo. Local Rule 26-3.01" on or before August 22, 2011. [Doc. 734.]
- 3. On August 22, 2011, Defendants provided Plaintiffs with their disclosures pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1). (Ex. A-1 to Fisher Declaration, attached as Ex. A.)
- 4. Defendants' disclosures listed the following as "documents and tangible things in Defendants' custody or control that may be used to support its [sic] claims": (1) correspondence and e-mails to and from various individuals concerning the numerous allegations contained in the Complaint; (2) documents pertaining to PLICA, including documents relating to amounts PLICA paid to outside counsel and to outside venders and documents pertaining to the purchase of PLICA; (3) First National Bank bank statements; and (4) RBT Trust tax returns. (Ex. A-1, at 2.) Defendants' disclosures also identified an insurance policy with Travelers Insurance Company that may apply to this case. *Id.*
- 5. Defendants did not produce copies of any documents or electronically stored information listed in their initial disclosures to Plaintiffs, as required by Local Rule 26-3.01(A) and the Interim Case Management Order.
- 6. Plaintiffs have made a good-faith attempt to resolve this dispute without Court intervention. (*See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(1); E.D. Mo. Local Rule 37-3.04(A)). On October 21, 2011, and December 13, 2011, counsel for Plaintiffs sent correspondence to counsel for Defendants, requesting that Defendants produce copies of the documents and electronically stored information identified in Defendants' initial disclosures. (Exs. A-2, A-3). Counsel for Plaintiffs and counsel for Defendants conferred by telephone on December 15, 2011. During that call, counsel for Defendants, Mr. Todd Lubben, was unable to confirm that documents

would be forthcoming. Mr. Lubben stated that he would try to collect the documents for production, but he made no further contact with Plaintiffs' counsel until Plaintiffs' counsel provided notice of this impending motion. Mr. Lubben has recently indicated to Plaintiffs' counsel that he has collected "some documents" from his clients, but has not obtained his clients' approval to produce them.

- 7. Counsel for Defendants has also informed counsel for Plaintiffs that the federal Government in the related criminal action has copies of the documents on which Defendants will rely. Defendants suggest this relieves them of their obligation to produce their initial disclosure documents in this case because Plaintiffs have access to the Government's documents.
- 8. Defendants cannot satisfy their disclosure obligations, however, by contending that the documents are otherwise accessible to Plaintiffs. *See St. Paul Reinsur. Co. v. Commercial Fin. Corp.*, 198 F.R.D. 508, 514 (N.D. Iowa 2000) (holding, in response to objection that documents were available in propounding party's records, "[C]ourts have unambiguously stated that this exact objection is insufficient to resist a discovery request."); *Jackson v. W. Va. Univ. Hosps., Inc.*, No. 1:10CV107, 2011 WL 1831591, at * 2-4 (N.D. W. Va. May 12, 2011) (compelling production of initial disclosure documents and collecting cases establishing that the availability of documents through alternative sources is not a basis to avoid production). Under Local Rule 26-3.01(A) and the Interim Case Management Order, Defendants must produce copies of their initial disclosure documents in addition to simply identifying them. Indeed, Rule 26(a)(1) contemplates that parties be able to obtain copies of documents described in initial disclosures by informal request. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(B) advisory committee's note (1993). Furthermore, a vague reference to a voluminous set of documents within the

Government's possession and requiring Plaintiffs to guess as to which documents Defendants plan to rely on does not fulfill Defendants' Rule 26(a)(1) disclosure obligations.

- 9. Counsel for Plaintiffs informed the Court and counsel for Defendants at the status conference on December 16, 2011, that a motion to compel these documents was forthcoming. (Ex. A-4, Hearing Transcript, 12/16/2011, at 9-10.)
- 10. Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek to compel production of all of the documents and electronically stored information listed in Defendants' initial disclosure statement, as well as the Travelers Insurance Company policy.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court issue an order under Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 37(a)(1) requiring Defendants Howard A. Wittner and Wittner, Spewak & Maylack, P.C. to produce to Plaintiffs copies of all of the documents and electronically stored information listed in their Rule 26(a)(1) initial disclosure statement, as well as the Travelers Insurance Company policy, pursuant to the Interim Case Management Order and Local Rule 26.301(A). Plaintiffs also ask the Court for reasonable expenses incurred in making this motion, including reasonable attorney's fees. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(5)(A); *Dykes v. Mitchell*, No. 4:07-CV-733 CAS, 2008 WL 544983, at *1-2 (E.D. Mo. Feb. 26, 2008) (award of fees and expenses incurred in connection with motion to compel is appropriate where a party fails to timely produce initial disclosures without justification). The requested format for production of documents is set forth in the Stipulation of the Parties on Production of Hard Copy Documents and Electronically Stored Information. [Doc. 733.]

Dated this 12th day of January, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Wendy B. Fisher

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 12, 2012, the foregoing PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO COMPEL THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS AND ELECTRONICALLY STORED INFORMATION BY DEFENDANTS HOWARD A. WITTNER AND WITTNER, SPEWAK & MAYLACK, P.C. was filed electronically with the Clerk of Court to be served by operation of the Court's electronic filing system upon the following:

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